Railway Network in the Country

4378. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated a plan to build a fool proof and safe railway network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total investment likely to be made to get the said plan implemented;

(c) whether Government propose to seek assistance from foreign countries/companies for the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Safety is a continuous and ongoing process and Indian Railway accords highest priority to Safety in train operation. Efforts are made to prevent accidents by progressively implementing safety measures, depending upon availability of resources.

Safety depends upon the health of assets being maintained. Railway Safety Review Committee set up under the chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna in Part-I of their report has recommended that central government should give one time grant of Rs. 15000 Crores to railways so that arrears in renewal of vital safety installation are wiped out within a fixed time frame.

(c) and (d) Action will be taken on those recommendations which are accepted by the Government. The technology and expertise for a large number of safety projects is available indigenously. However, for few safety equipment like Auxiliary Warning System, Ultrasonic Fault detection divices etc. foreign assistance may have to be resorted to.

Rail Bridge and Subway in Chennai

4379. SHRI BRATIN SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamil Nadu Government has written to the Railway Board for Rail Bridge and subway across twelve level crossing in the Chennai City;

(b) what decision has been taken vis-a-vis that; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?